

THE PROFESSIONALS BEHIND

**Bend's**

# **Growing Skyline**

ARCHITECTS ARE ONE STEP AHEAD WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING SURE OUR BUILDINGS ARE REFLECTIVE OF YEARS GONE BY, WHILE ENSURING THEY ARE SAFE ENOUGH FOR YEARS TO COME.

# ARCHITECTS ARE ONE STEP AHEAD WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING SURE OUR BUILDINGS ARE REFLECTIVE OF YEARS GONE BY, WHILE ENSURING THEY ARE SAFE ENOUGH FOR YEARS TO COME.

## By Amy Clark, For The Bulletin

Turn the corner into one of Bend's urban areas and you'll likely find a construction site. Whether it's a demolition, a renovation or newly broken ground, structures in Bend are going up. A new building is set to replace the site where the historic crane shed once stood, and ground will soon be broken to make way for the Plaza Condominiums. The Fire Hall renovation is nearly complete and construction of commercial buildings in NorthWest Crossing is in full swing. And that doesn't even include new home construction and renovation. Yes, it's no secret that Bend is growing in every direction. But who are these maestros of Bend's new skyline?

Like a painting without a signature, an architect is the silent creator behind the masterpiece. For months a building site can be busy with workers pouring concrete, framing walls and making final touches on a new structure. And while many people are involved in the construction of a building, the initial concept is that of the architect. Central Oregon has drawn many of its architects from nearby University of Oregon. The UO School of Architecture affiliates itself with the allied arts rather than engineering, and its programs focus on providing a comprehensive and holistic approach to learning — one that stresses the uniqueness of an issue or site.

Todd Turner, one of the firm principals of BBT Architects, graduated from the University of Oregon architecture program, came to Bend in 1981 and has witnessed the growth of Central Oregon over the past 20 years. So who better to design the

new Crane Shed Renovation than a long-time Bend resident? With past projects that include Bend City Hall and High Lakes Elementary School, BBT Architects are a major part of Bend's future. The new Crane Shed Renovation was designed to incorporate elements of the old structure such as its size, bowstring trusses, buttresses and exterior color. Considered a "brown site" (a former industrial space revitalized for people), this five-story building will likely include restaurant, retail and residential space.

When asked about current architectural trends, Todd says that while "big box" stores continue to become a part of the High Desert landscape, there are also many builders who are leaning toward resource efficient design, or sustainability. Such "green living" is becoming more affordable every year, encouraging the reduction of heavy toxicity levels in a living space. Using natural products such as bamboo, wool and cork flooring, or recycled options such as timber products and floor tiles made from recycled plastics, consumers are able to live and work in healthy, energy efficient dwellings. BBT hopes to include green building practices into the Crane Shed Renovation, such as the use of natural lighting and state-of-the-art, energy efficient mechanical and electrical systems.

Chad Phillips of Phillips Architecture & Planning, Inc.,

recognizes the urgency when it comes to sustainable living. Another University of Oregon graduate, he is a member of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities. It is an organization that fosters the development of a multi-million dollar market for green roof infrastructure in North America, and is a non-profit industry association. A green roof is comprised of a surface covered in layers of soil ranging from thick to very thin. Vegetation that is native to the area and resistant to drought is then planted and cared for over the first year until roots have been established. The roof is then virtually care free.

And sure enough, Phillips Architecture & Planning are bringing green roofs to Bend. The Plaza Condominiums will house a 30,000 square-foot green roof that will double as a courtyard for residents. Underneath the green roof will be a parking garage for condominium owners and tenants. The lot will also be comprised of 40 percent landscaping, and is set to open in the summer of 2006.

When asked about Bend's future, Chad says his hope is that there's a focus on good planning. With his firm pioneering the green roof designs in Central Oregon, such efforts along with efficient planning will help sustain the rapid growth Bend is sure to see in the upcoming years.

It's Bend's architects who are looking ahead, preparing us for a foreseeable future of expansion and environmental concern. They are one step ahead when it comes to making sure our buildings are reflective of years gone by, while ensuring they are safe enough for years to come. And of course, they're quietly crafting a distinctive skyline for Bend in the process.

